

under FMLA; 77 percent of employees work in these covered businesses (although about 62 percent of employees are eligible for FMLA).

According to data from a 2001 Department of Labor study, 52 percent of leave-takers have taken time off to care for their own serious illness; 26 percent have taken time off to care for a new child or for maternity disability reasons; 13 percent have taken time off to care for a seriously ill parent; 12 percent have taken time off to care for a seriously ill child; and 6 percent have taken time off to care for a seriously ill spouse. About 42 percent of leave takers are men; about 58 percent of leave-takers are women. The median length of leave is 10 days; 80 percent of leaves are for 40 days or fewer. About 73 percent of leave-takers earn \$30,000 or more.

While the Family and Medical Leave Act has proven invaluable to many Americans, too many are still not covered by the law and others cannot afford to take leave under the Act because leave is unpaid. Many women and men are unable to take time off to care for their families, whether due to the arrival of a new child or when a medical crisis strikes. More than three in four (78 percent) employees who have needed but who have not taken leave report that they simply could not afford it.

The Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act would expand the scope and coverage of FMLA to ensure that even more American workers do not have to choose between job and family. Too many eligible individuals simply cannot afford unpaid leave. Many forgo leave or take the shortest amount of time possible because the current FMLA law requires only unpaid leave. The Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act would:

Establish a pilot program to allocate grants to states to provide paid leave for at least 6 weeks to eligible employees responding to caregiving needs resulting from the birth or adoption of a child or family illness. States may provide for wage replacement directly or through an insurance program, such as a state temporary disability program or a state unemployment compensation program, or other mechanism. Such paid leave shall count toward an eligible employee's 12 weeks of leave under FMLA.

Expand the number of individuals eligible for FMLA by covering employers with 25 or more employees (to enable 13 million more Americans to take FMLA).

Expand the reasons for leave to include eligible employees addressing domestic violence and its effects, which make the employee unable to perform the functions of the position of such employee or, to care for the son, daughter, or parent of the employee, if such individual is addressing domestic violence and its effects.

Establish a pilot program within the federal government for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to administer a partial or full wage replacement for at least 6 weeks to eligible employees responding to caregiving needs resulting from the birth or adoption of a child or other family caregiving needs. Such paid leave shall count toward an eligible employee's 12 weeks of leave under FMLA.

Allows employees to use a total of 24 hours during any 12-month period to participate in a school activity of a son or daughter, such as a parent-teacher conference, or to participate in literacy training under a family literacy program.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Chairman, last week, the House passed by a very large margin H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006. As a strong supporter of this legislation, I want to congratulate Chairmen BARTON and UPTON for authoring a bill that will accelerate the development of next-generation video and broadband competition to all Americans.

I also wish to elaborate on one aspect of this bill dealing with the definition of cable systems and its effect on private cable operations. The Committee Report "emphasizes that none of the changes to the cable definitions made under Section 102 are intended to affect the application of any of the definitions, including Section 602(7)(B) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. 522(7)(B)), which exempts from the 'cable system' definition facilities that serve subscribers without using public rights-of-way."

This means that an entity that constructs facilities for the distribution of video programming entirely on private rights-of-way is not a cable operator, even if the video programming signal is delivered over a telecommunications provider's facility that does use public rights-of-way, if the entity using private rights-of-way neither owns nor controls the facility that transmits its programming over the public rights-of-way. That is the case because Section 602(5) (47 U.S.C. 522(5)) defines a cable operator as a person who provides cable service over a cable system they own or control, and a facility that does not use public rights-of-way is not a cable system under section 602(7)(B).

## COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy, and National History Day is promoting history education in Minnesota and throughout the Nation. National History Day empowers teachers to improve history education so that every student will have historical knowledge and skills to contribute to the public good of our Nation.

As Representative to the citizens of the 4th Congressional District of Minnesota, it brings me great pleasure to pay special tribute to Emily Brown, on this date, June 15, 2006, as she is recognized for her scholastic achievements in National History Day.

Emily Brown, a student at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake, was one of twelve students chosen out of hundreds of thousands across America, to display and present her project at the White House. Emily will be presenting her project on Alice Paul. Alice Paul took a stand against a president to secure women's right to vote: she was the first to picket outside the White House. She later had to take a stand against other women leaders and against the American public who told her to stop picketing during WWI. The National History Day program allows students to create exhibits, documentaries and performances, by using their critical thinking and research skills in the subject of history.

I congratulate Emily and commend her for her dedication and commitment. I join with Emily's family, friends and teachers in wishing Emily well in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACQUELINE A. YOUNG—"DR. JACQUELINE A. YOUNG EDUCATIONAL CENTER"

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Jacqueline A. Young, PhD, as the Dr. Jacqueline A. Young Education Center is dedicated on June 15, 2006, in Fairfield, New Jersey. It should come as no surprise to anyone who knows Dr. Young, who received her Doctorate of Education from Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education, that such an honor would be bestowed upon her for her many years of dedicated service to the Essex County Educational Services Commission.

An educator since 1974, Dr. Young has been involved with many aspects of this noble profession. She has been a teacher, a Basic Skills Consultant, a Coordinator, a Supervisor, a Director and has held her current post as Superintendent of the Essex County Educational Services Commission since July, 1992. Prior to being named Superintendent, Dr. Young served the commission as Director beginning in 1986. During this period, Dr. Young has been responsible for many new programs and initiatives which have resulted in sustainable growth and institutional stability. Under her guidance, both staff and students have been exposed to professionalism at its finest as Dr. Young is the epitome of excellence in leadership.

With facilities such as the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center under her control, Dr. Young is certainly challenged on a daily basis to provide educational opportunities to students that are coping with a variety of other distracting issues. In order for students to retain a semblance of their high school experience and to allow them to embark on their new life journey with a clean slate, Youth House graduates earn diplomas from their respective high schools. In part, this results in some students retaining their interest in education. Dr. Young manages to get their attention and to remain a woman of "grace under pressure."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Young does an admirable job in serving her community well and the